

1 Warm-up

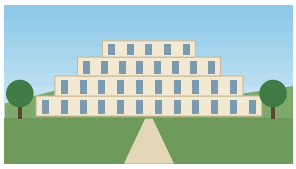
A. Think and share

Work with a partner.

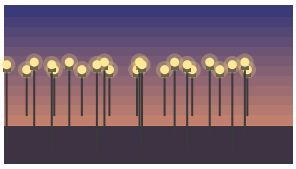
1. When did you last visit a museum? What kind was it, and what did you think of it?
2. Which would you choose for a free afternoon: an art museum, a science museum or a natural history museum? Why?
3. Do you think museums are still important in the age of the internet? Why or why not?

B. Look at the pictures

What kind of place does each picture show? What would you expect to see or do there?



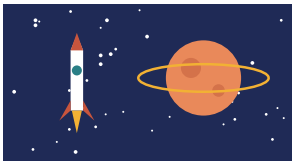
A



B



C



D

C. Quick prediction

You are going to read about five museums in Los Angeles. Which of these do you expect to find? Tick them, then check as you read.

- ☐ dinosaur skeletons
- ☐ street lamps
- ☐ space technology
- ☐ ancient antiquities
- ☐ a museum with free entry
- ☐ video games

2 Reading

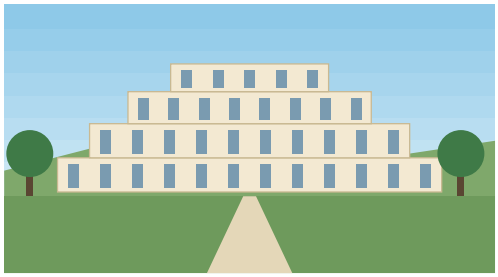
A City Full of Museums

Read the text. Then move on to the quick reactions.

Los Angeles is famous for movies and beaches, but it is also home to some of the most impressive museums in the United States. Choosing just one to visit is not easy, because there are so many to pick from. Museums, after all, work like libraries of history: they keep alive everything from ancient buildings to the remains of animals that lived millions of years ago.

Art lovers usually begin with the Getty Center, which is full of both classic and modern art and has remarkable architecture too. Not far away is the Getty Villa, where the personal collection of antiquities belonging to J. Paul Getty is on display. There is no entry fee at either place, although you do have to pay to park. The Villa also runs workshops and performances for adults, and hands-on activities for children.

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, known as LACMA, is the largest museum in the western United States, with more than a hundred thousand objects. Its collections cover Asia, Latin America, Europe and beyond. Its best-known work is probably *Urban Light*, an installation made from 202 cast-iron street lamps. Many visitors take their photo there before they even go inside.

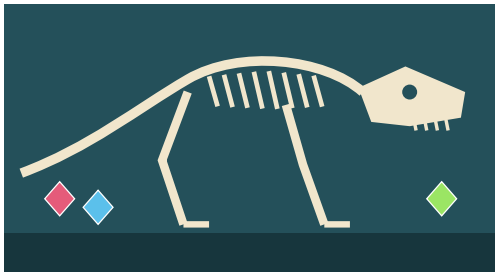


Art and architecture: the Getty Center

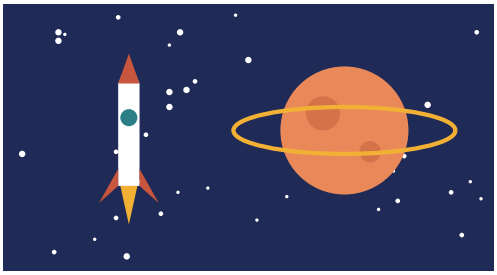


Urban Light at LACMA

If you are more interested in science, head to the California Science Center in Exposition Park. It is packed with science and technology projects that leave people amazed, and it offers seminars and workshops for every age group. Right next door is the Natural History Museum of LA County, where visitors can stand next to giant dinosaur skeletons, colourful birds and sparkling gems. Some of its 35 million objects are as old as 4.5 billion years.



Dinosaurs and gems at the Natural History Museum



Science and technology

In the end, the best museum is the one that matches your curiosity. Whether you prefer paintings, planets or prehistoric creatures, Los Angeles has something to inspire you. The only real problem is deciding where to go first.

3 Quick Reactions

React first, then explain. Answer in one or two sentences, then compare with a partner.

1. **Which museum would you visit first, and which would you skip?** Why?
2. **“There are so many to choose from.”** Is a big choice usually a good thing, or does it make decisions harder for you?
3. **Free entry but paid parking.** Is that fair? Should museums always be free?
4. ***Urban Light* is made from 202 street lamps.** Is that really art? Where do you draw the line?
5. **Dinosaurs, gems, objects 4.5 billion years old.** What is the oldest thing you have ever seen or touched?
6. **Hands-on activities for kids.** Should museums for adults be more interactive too? What would you add?
7. **If you could design a new museum in your city,** what would it be about?

4 Vocabulary

A. Match each word from the video with its meaning

1	**antiquities**	**a**	a work of art made of objects arranged in a space
2	**is blessed with**	**b**	very famous and easily recognised as a symbol of something
3	**iconic**	**c**	objects from the ancient past
4	**installation**	**d**	has something good or valuable
5	**repository**	**e**	a place where a large amount of something is stored
6	**hands-on**	**f**	involving practical, direct experience
7	**entry fee**	**g**	the money you pay to go in
8	**remains**	**h**	what is left of something that lived long ago

B. Complete the sentences

Use the words from exercise A. Change the form if necessary.

1. The city _____ many beautiful parks and old buildings.
2. Scientists found the _____ of a very large animal near the river.
3. The museum has a _____ workshop where students can build their own robots.
4. There is no _____ on Sundays, so the place is always crowded.
5. The Eiffel Tower is probably the most _____ landmark in Europe.
6. The artist's latest _____ fills the whole gallery with light and sound.

C. Useful phrases from the video

Notice the patterns, then write one sentence of your own with each.

- "a huge repository of" science and technology projects
- "seminars and workshops on several topics"
- "for all groups of ages"

5 Grammar

Focus 1: Relative clauses

Notice these examples from the video:

> "...there are several museums **which makes it very difficult to choose** for a visit."
> "...Museum of Art **housing more than 100 thousand objects**..."
> "This Villa stores all the personal antiquities collection **by Jay Paul Getty**."

With a partner, think about these two points:

- A clause with **which** can refer to a whole idea, not just one noun. It needs a comma before it.
- An **-ing** clause can replace *which/that + verb*: "a museum **housing** 100,000 objects" = "a museum **which houses** 100,000 objects".

Practice: join each pair of sentences using *which* or an -ing clause

1. The museum is free. This surprises many tourists.
2. The Natural History Museum is next to the Science Center. It attracts thousands of families.
3. The city has dozens of museums. This makes planning a visit difficult.
4. LACMA has a famous installation. It consists of 202 street lamps.

Focus 2: Superlatives and *as … as*

Notice these examples:

"…the **biggest** museum in all the western US" (video)
"perhaps its **most iconic** piece is the urban light installation" (video)
Some of its objects are **as old as** 4.5 billion years. (reading text)

Practice: find and correct the mistake in each sentence

1. The Getty Center is the more beautiful museum in the city.
2. It is the most popular of all the museums of the world.
3. The dinosaur is as older as the rocks around it.
4. This is the more interesting exhibit I've ever seen.

Your turn

Write three true sentences about museums, parks or attractions in your own city: one with a superlative, one with *as … as*, and one with a *which* clause.

6 Speaking: Plan a Day

Work in pairs. You have one day in Los Angeles and time for only two museums. Decide which two you will visit, in what order, and why. Then present your plan to the class.

Useful language: We'd better start with … · The reason we chose … is that … · It's the most … · Which means we'll have time to …

Phrases in quotation marks are taken from the video script. All other examples were written for this lesson.